DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 466 354 SE 066 040

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TITLE	Has Feminism Changed Science?
ISBN	ISBN-0-674-00544-9
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	252p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Harvard University Press, 79 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-1499 (cloth: ISBN-0-674-38113-0, $29.50; paper: ISBN-0-674-00544-9, $15.95). Tel: 800-405-1619 (Toll Free); Tel: 617-495-2600; Fax: 617-495-5898.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative (142)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Feminism; *Gender Issues; General Education; Science History; Science Instruction; *Scientific Methodology; Scientific Principles; Sociocultural Patterns; *Women Scientists

ABSTRACT

This book features a history of women in science and an assessment of the role of gender in shaping scientific knowledge which poses the questions: (1) Do women do science differently? and (2) How about feminists--male or female? It is argued that science is both a profession and a body of knowledge, and how women have fared and performed in both instances is considered. The lives of women scientists, past and present, is considered thusly: (1) How many are there? (2) What sciences do they choose--or have chosen for them? (3) Is the professional culture of science gendered? and (4) Is there something uniquely feminine about the science that women do? The book aims to debunk the notion that women scientists--because they are women--are somehow more holistic and integrative and create more cooperative scientific communities. However, considerable practical difficulties that beset women in science, where domestic partnerships, children, and other demanding concerns can put women's (and men's) careers at risk, are detailed. The book provides a gender analysis of the physical sciences, medicine, archaeology, evolutionary biology, primatology, and developmental biology and shows that feminist scientists have developed new theories, asked new questions, and opened new fields in many of these areas. (MM)

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